



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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Employees at Big Rivers Electric Headquarters Earn Governor's Safety and Health Award

Honor is 38th all-time for entire Big Rivers Electric Corp.

HENDERSON, Ky. (March 11, 2015) – Commissioner of Workplace Standards Anthony Russell of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet joined employees and officials in Henderson today to honor the headquarters of Big Rivers Electric Corp. with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The honor recognizes the member-owned cooperative's headquarters for more than 753,000 hours without a lost-time accident or illness. The headquarters had its last lost-time incident in June 2011.

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts said it's obvious that safety is important to all employees at Big Rivers.

"Every day the employees at the headquarters for Big Rivers are keeping safety in mind in everything they do," said Secretary Roberts. "They have set an example for companies across the Commonwealth, and it's no secret that Big Rivers has established itself as an employer that puts great emphasis and pride in preventing workplace injuries and illnesses."

Incorporated in 1961, Big Rivers has earned 37 previous Governor's Safety and Health Awards throughout the years. The corporation is a member-owned, not-for-profit, generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Henderson. With more than 500 employees, Big Rivers owns, operates and maintains a 1,285-mile transmission system, three generating plants and 22 substations.

"As the president and CEO, it's very satisfying when you see employees display a collaborative spirit, so receiving the Commonwealth's highest safety honor once again is a tribute to all headquarters' employees working collectively to make this achievement a reality," said Bob Berry, CEO of Big Rivers. "Looking out for the health and wellness of your colleagues is a culture we encourage at Big Rivers; therefore, it is rewarding to know the safety tradition is being recognized by the Kentucky Labor Cabinet."

Big Rivers is owned by three distribution cooperative members: Jackson Purchase Energy Corp., headquartered in Paducah; Kenergy Corp., headquartered in Henderson; and Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., headquartered in Brandenburg. These member cooperatives serve approximately 114,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in portions of 22 western Kentucky counties.

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor's Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of Big Rivers's headquarters, the requirement is 250,000 hours.

The Governor's Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Steve Beshear's efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) last year as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents and deaths from Kentucky's dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky's successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state's collective health.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible for the award. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time. The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque that contains the signatures of Kentucky Gov. Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Commissioner Russell.

For more on the Governor's Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past winners, click [here](#).

For more on Big Rivers, visit www.bigrivers.com.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's nearly 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

